



## PROSTATE CANCER

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- In 2004, about 230,110 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed, and 29,900 men will die of the disease.
- At all ages, African-American men die of prostate cancer more often than do other men. In contrast, Asian/Pacific-Islander men experience some of the lowest rates of incidence and mortality. The reasons for the variation among groups are unknown. Recent reports on trends in mortality rates for prostate cancer by race/ethnicity in the United States indicate that death rates for prostate cancer decreased for all racial/ethnic groups.
- No scientific consensus on effective strategies to reduce risk of prostate cancer exists. Additionally, there is no agreement on the effectiveness of screening and treatment of early stage prostate cancer or that the potential benefits outweigh harms. Therefore, public health agencies face significant challenges in determining what actions to take to address prostate cancer.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

With funds from CDC's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion appropriations, CDC educates providers and the public about screening and treatment options and helps states build prostate cancer public health programs. CDC also supports grantees in comprehensive cancer control efforts, including activities that target prostate cancer. Activities include establishing broad-based coalitions, coordinating surveillance, and developing and disseminating public education programs to reduce cancer risk. To enable states to better design public health programs to control the disease, CDC is enhancing prostate cancer data in cancer registries, especially with regard to stage of diagnosis, quality of care and racial/ethnic information. In addition, CDC sponsors research to determine whether screening for prostate cancer reduces deaths, examine current screening practices among providers, and explore the public's knowledge, awareness and behaviors regarding prostate cancer screening.

#### *Example of Program in Action*

CDC developed a decision guide that targets men age 50 and older who have no symptoms to increase their knowledge and awareness about the prostate gland and prostate cancer; give them basic facts about prostate cancer screening; encourage them to discuss screening with their healthcare professionals; and educate them so they can make an informed decision about screening. In addition, a similar guide has recently been developed for African-American men. These guides are intended to stimulate thought and dialogue about prostate cancer screening by providing basic facts and resources.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

To advance efforts targeting prostate cancer, CDC will continue to encourage state health departments to integrate activities related to prostate cancer into their comprehensive cancer control plans and provide additional funding to some states to support the implementation of specific prostate cancer strategies within their statewide comprehensive cancer control plans. CDC will also continue to conduct surveillance activities to determine knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of men and healthcare providers about prostate cancer screening and treatment options, especially focused on developing appropriate interventions to help men make informed decisions about screening.

In addition, CDC will continue to review and implement, as appropriate, recommendations from the December 2000 prostate cancer meeting of healthcare providers, researchers, survivors, advocates, and others with expertise in prostate cancer. CDC will also conduct epidemiologic and behavioral research to build the science base for this disease; expand research about prostate cancer screening and treatment options; and promote and disseminate informed decision-making materials nationwide.

*For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/program](http://www.cdc.gov/program)*

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